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Attachment  
USIB-D-15.2/97  
2 July 1963

Post-Mortem on NIE 53-63

Prospects in South Vietnam  
Dated 7 June 1963

I. Findings

Intelligence reporting on South Vietnam is voluminous, but there are some critical gaps in our coverage.

Despite recent improvements, there remains a need for more hard and timely intelligence on the Viet Cong, including the sources and nature of outside direction and assistance to the Viet Cong effort, the mechanisms by which such external direction and assistance is provided, the size and organization of Viet Cong forces, the degree to which their capabilities have been affected by recent South Vietnamese operations, and the extent to which they enjoy popular support, especially in rural areas.

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II. Action

Members of the USIB are requested to take such action as they deem appropriate on the above subject.

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